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Laurie Ortolano uploaded a file.

March 27 ·

I wrote to the Board of Tax and Land Appeals to ask that they compel the Nashua Board of Assessor to comply with the state law and review abatement applications. To my pleasant surprise, the BTLA responded and requested that Attorney Bolton respond to my concern within 10 days (March 10, 2021), sending his written response to the BTLA and me.

Attorney Bolton wrote a pretty blustery and annoyed response informing the BTLA that they are out of their jurisdiction in responding to this matter and that Mrs. Ortolano was non-compliant because the issue had not been docketed. Attorney Bolton then writes that the Board of Assessor does not have to comply with state law because of a revised city ordinance that allows the Board to delegate their state law responsibilities to subordinates. Attorney Bolton is wrong; his misquotes the ordinance and misapplies the law.

More importantly, he never actually answers whether the BOA reviews the applications as specified in the state law.

Unknown to me, the BTLA had just finished writing an order to the Berlin Board of Assessors. A citizen had written a complaint against their BOA for wrongdoing and the BTLA called a hearing (lasted 10





lawyers straight on jurisdiction. Attorney Bolton's bravado in telling the BTLA to butt-out of Nashua's business probably isn't the correct response.

Why is it so hard to get our BOA to answer basic questions and do their job? I don't know if the BTLA will docket the Nashua issue or not, but I have already been able to obtain some answers by writing the complaint that they City would not provide.

Attached is the 22 page BTLA order to the Berlin Board of Assessor and their lawyers. Pretty interesting reading.



PDF

Berlin Order

<https://www.berlinnh.gov/sites/g/files:vyhlif2811:f:upl...>

21

23 Comments



Like



Comment

All Comments



Mike Burt

****spoiler alert**** It's not an interesting read.

Like · Reply · 22w



8



Laurie Ortolano

Mike Burt The entire Berlin Board of Assessor resigned last week because of that order. Low IQ, Low interest, Mr. Burt.

Like · Reply · 22w



7



Mike Burt

Laurie Ortolano my bad. It's a New York Times best seller.

Like · Reply · 22w



7



Laurie Ortolano

Mike Burt Ok. you're pretty funny

Like · Reply · 22w



3



Write a reply...

Press Enter to post.



Laura Colquhoun

Mike Burt maybe not for you because you do not have a brain. Most people want to know how their boards are run. Also shows you that there is corruption within some boards within New Hampshire.

Like · Reply · 22w · Edited




Write a reply...



Tenor

Like · Reply · 22w



John McDonald
Thank you Laurie  3

Like · Reply · 22w



JoAnn Johnson
It most definitely is an interesting read. Clearly the BOA members in Berlin were dishonest. To grant themselves significant abatements while denying other abatements really calls attention to their decisions.

  2

Like · Reply · 22w



Beth Scaer



Like · Reply · 22w

 1





Beth Scaer

Attorney Bolton is often blustery. 🙄



2

Like · Reply · 22w



Amanda Reichert

It's so great to hear the state is actually appearing to uphold the law. Give a person enough rope and they will hang themselves.



3

Like · Reply · 22w



Jan Schmidt

"[W] observe that this dispute has consumed an inordinate amount of time, energy, and resources — judicial and otherwise. The salutary purpose of the Right-to-Know Law — to "ensure both the greatest possible public access to the actions, discussions, a... [See More](#)



1

Like · Reply · 22w



Laurie Ortolano

Jan Schmidt I love that quote. The state really does a great job living up to that. The DRA always reaches out to clarify requests and makes the process so simple. Why doesn't the City do this?

Like · Reply · 22w



Jan Schmidt

Laurie, I used to answer every email you sent. I had to stop because all I ever got in return was an angry response- i never felt you responded with a spirit of collaboration. It has to be both parties and sometimes one gives less, that means that time, the other has to give a little more.



1

Like · Reply · 22w



Write a reply...



Press Enter to post.



Laurie Ortolano

The BTLA decided to close the matter on the BOA reviewing the abatement applications. They backed the City. This is not good for property owners. The boards decision to not review abatement applications has hurt property owners who have filed abatements. So, pay close attention to yours.



2

Like · Reply · 22w



Steve Bolton

Given that Ms. Ortolano's request was denied for the reasons raised in the City's response, it seems that the BTLA was of a different opinion as to the quality of that response.



6

Like · Reply · 22w



Lauren Parker

Steve Bolton I am shocked that she neglected to mention that.

Like · Reply · 22w



Jesse Neumann

Steve Bolton I thought it was very well written, but I'm a little biased.

Like · Reply · 22w



Laura Colquhoun

Jesse Neumann you only said that because you want to keep your job.

Like · Reply · 22w



Beth Scaer

Why isn't the board reviewing the abatement applications? It seems like the right thing to do. It seems really unprofessional to sign off on things without reviewing the paperwork.

Like · Reply · 22w



Laurie Ortolano

Steve Bolton What I realize it that I did not submit a lawsuit with evidence. I now know I should have. Citizens are the real underdog when working with judicial or quasi judicial boards. Tough to know what to do. This victory for the legal office is a loss to all property owners. What happened to Ms. Walley's property is a perfect example. She filed a 2018 abatement requesting reducing the assessment for deferred maintenance on the home. The Board never reviewed her application. KRT was contracted to perform her abatement. KRT never went to home and recommended the BOA deny her request because she did not carry the burden of proof. She told the BOA that KRT NEVER visited her home, but the BOA, without ever looking at her application, sided with KRT. That was a totally corrupted process and it affected 50 other property owners, including me. Next year, property owners will be in the same boat with Vision and the City lawyers are backing that the BOA ignore the applications because the assessors can review them on their own. The DRA has sanctioned one of the most senior assessors for wrongdoing. And he was involved in price fixing abatements and dramatically reducing properties so they would not have to abate. After reading the Berlin order, I had no idea that I could have filed a lawsuit on these abatement issues.

Like · Reply · 22w





Laurie Ortolano

Steve Bolton It is also important to note that the BTLA agreed with your objection which stated that this matter was not within the jurisdiction of the BTLA. The BTLA did not say who's jurisdiction this matter was within. It doesn't mean that the BTLA believes that the Board should not be reviewing the applications, but rather they have no jurisdiction to comment on it and I did not present evidence to support it.

Like · Reply · 22w · Edited



Kelly Farrell Friedland

Steve Bolton Why can't the Nashua board of assessors just do their job? "Attorney Bolton then writes that the Board of Assessor does not have to comply with state law because of a revised city ordinance that allows the Board to delegate their state law responsibilities to subordinates." This is PATHETIC!!!! 1) Who is the board of assessors delegating their state law responsibilities to? 2) Does the board of assessors review all the abatement applications? I bet Atty. Bolton doesn't respond to my questions...

Like · Reply · 22w



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Write a comment...



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